

a lawful way for foreign workers to fill jobs that Americans are not doing. Our economy depends on them. And we must resolve the status of illegal immigrants already in our country without amnesty and without animosity, because that is the only practical way to fix the problem that has been decades in the making. We must help new immigrants assimilate. That's what has always made our Nation strong. People in America must have confidence in this country to help people assimilate.

Mel Martinez's parents put him on an airplane because they didn't want him raised in a tyrannical society on the island of Cuba, and here he now sits as a Member of the United States Senate. I was deeply touched at the Coast Guard Academy, when I was sitting there as the Commander in Chief of a bunch of kids who just got bars on their shoulders, and the head of the class got up to speak, and he talked about his migrant grandfather. This Hispanic American started his speech to his classmates—because I was there, there was a lot of cameras, maybe the country—talking about his migrant grandfather. Isn't it a fabulous country where a migrant grandfather can come and have a dream and work hard, and there's his grandson talking about the promise of America in front of the President of the United States and his classmates? That's the beauty of America.

We must meet our moral obligation to treat newcomers with decency and show compassion to the vulnerable and exploited, because we're called to answer both the demands of justice and the call for mercy.

Most Americans agree on these principles. And now it's time for our elected leaders in Congress to act. You don't have to worry about these two Senators; they're acting; they're in the lead. Each day our Nation fails to act, the problem only grows worse. I will continue to work closely with members of both parties to get past our differences and pass a bill I can sign this year.

One of the reasons that America leads the world is that we've always welcomed people who are determined to embrace our democracy and stand for freedom. We see that termination every day in the hundreds of

thousands of Hispanic Americans who wear the uniform of the United States military.

Today we're joined by a group of Hispanic American soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I thank these brave men for stepping forward to protect our freedom. I join all of you in praying for their full recovery. And I'm honored to be their Commander in Chief.

Our Nation is blessed to call these men fellow Americans. We thank God for sending us such brave and selfless people. We ask that He give His—give us the wisdom and grace to be worthy of the sacrifices they make and the ideals of liberty they defend.

Thank you very much for letting me come by again. *Y tambien, que Dios los bendiga.* Amen. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 a.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Luis Cortes, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Esperanza USA.

## Remarks on Arrival in Wichita, Kansas

June 15, 2007

Thank you all for coming out to say hello. Thank you for making this a really comfortable airplane. [Laughter] I can't tell you what an honor it is to fly overseas in Air Force One and have that big bird park, have people around the world see the great majesty of our country reflected in this airplane.

And I know many of you are working hard to outfit its companion. I appreciate your hard work. I will assure you one thing: I will ride that airplane with great pride. I mean, there's nothing better than representing the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

I appreciate your hard work. Thanks for coming out to say hello. I'd like to kind of work along here and make sure I don't lose my touch and shake a few hands. I'm honored to be here with Senator Pat Roberts and Vicki Tiaht. They're strong supporters of the programs here, strong supporters of Boeing.

I appreciate you coming out to say hello. And I ask for God's blessings on your families and on our country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. at McConnell Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Vicki Tiahrt, wife of Representative Todd Tiahrt of Kansas.

### **Remarks at the Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas—21st Street Club in Wichita**

*June 15, 2007*

**The President.** I have come to this fantastic facility to, first of all, thank the people that have supported the programs that exist here. I like the idea of mentors reaching out to children to set good examples and to encourage them to achieve big goals in life. And that's what happens here in this Boys and Girls Club in Wichita. This is a place where dreams are fostered and skills are given so that people can realize their dreams.

This is a community-based program. It gets some help from the government, but it gets a lot of help from the local community. And I think it's very important for the people of Wichita to support program such as this—after all, we can change our country one heart and one soul at a time. So I'm really pleased to be here. It's a beautiful facility full of beautiful people.

And so thank you for giving me a chance to come by and say hello. Yes, you won an award didn't you?

**Ciera Ivy.** Yes.

**The President.** What award did you win?

**Ms. Ivy.** Youth of the Month.

**The President.** Youth of the Month. That's good. Congratulations to you.

**Ms. Ivy.** Thank you.

**The President.** I want to thank the counselors who are here and all the adults that are working with the boys and girls.

Anyway, nice to see you all. Thanks for coming by. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployments of United States Combat-Equipped Armed Forces Around the World**

*June 15, 2007*

*Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. combat-equipped Armed Forces around the world. This supplemental report covers operations in support of the war on terror and Kosovo.

#### **THE WAR ON TERROR**

Since September 24, 2001, I have reported, consistent with Public Law 107-40 and the War Powers Resolution, on the combat operations in Afghanistan against al-Qaida terrorists and their Taliban supporters, which began on October 7, 2001, and the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat-support forces to a number of locations in the Central, Pacific, European (KFOR), and Southern Command areas of operation in support of those operations and of other operations in our war on terror.

I will direct additional measures as necessary in the exercise of the U.S. right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short-notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world. It is not possible to know at this time either the precise scope or duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States.

United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, continue to conduct the U.S. campaign to pursue al-Qaida terrorists and to eliminate support to al-Qaida. These operations have been successful in seriously degrading al-Qaida's training capabilities. United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, ended the Taliban regime and are actively pursuing and engaging remnant al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.